



**THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
MAYOR JERRY SANDERS**

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: March 27, 2009

TO: Community Planning Group Chairs

FROM: Monica Orton, Deputy Fire Chief, San Diego Fire-Rescue Department

SUBJECT: Draft Very High Fire Severity Hazard Map

The Fire-Rescue Department is asking the Chairs of the City's Community Planning Groups to share the attached draft of the Fire Severity Hazard Map with your community planning group.

State law requires that all local agencies identify very high fire hazard severity zones (VHFHSZ) within their jurisdictions. Inclusion within the VHFHSZ is based on vegetation density, slope severity, and other relevant factors that contribute to fire severity. The purpose of the VHFHSZ Map is to classify lands in accordance with whether a very high fire hazard is present so that public officials are able to identify measures that will retard the rate of spread and reduce the potential intensity of uncontrolled fires through vegetation management and implementation of building standards developed to minimize loss of life, resources, and property. Generally, these include requirements related to venting, roofing, and for exterior building surfaces. Existing buildings are not required to be retrofitted.

Included in the Map is the current 300 ft buffer that was published pursuant to Section § 145.3802 of the Municipal Code under ordinance O-19258 N.S. in 2004 and the VHFHSZ. Adoption of the Map will trigger compliance with Chapter 7A of the 2007 California Building Code as adopted and amended by the City of San Diego.

This Map is provided in draft form to allow for public comment on the boundaries of the areas mapped on the Map. The public is invited to review and comment on the draft Map which can be reviewed at the City of San Diego Fire-Rescue website at www.sandiego.gov/fireandems/forms/map.shtml, at San Diego City libraries, and in the reception areas of the City Clerk's Office (202 'C' Street) Development Services Department (1222 First Avenue) and the Fire-Rescue Department (1010 2nd Avenue Ste. 400).

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[INSERT DATE]

Comments and questions regarding why properties are within the Map should be directed to Monica Orton, Deputy Chief of the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department (619-533-4304).

Questions regarding the building requirements within the mapped area should be directed to Ali Fattah, Senior Structural Engineer in the Development Services Department (619-446-5092).

Questions and comments can also be e-mailed to sdfirehazardmaps@sandiego.gov where they will be forwarded to the appropriate person for a response. Public comments will be accepted during the 60 day public comment period commencing from the date of this Notice.

The decision to adopt this draft Map will be made at a noticed public hearing. Inquiries about the public hearing date may be directed to Monica Orton at (619) 533-4304.

Monica Orton

Deputy Fire Chief, San Diego Fire-Rescue Department

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Attachment: Draft Very High Fire Severity Hazard Map